

# Memo

To: Lobster Zone Council Members  
From: Jessica McKay, License Eligibility Specialist  
Date: February 4<sup>th</sup> – Posted on Internet  
Re: 2014 New Zone Entrants for Limited-Entry Lobster Zones

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As required by Maine's limited entry law, Title 12 M.R.S.A. §6448, the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants that may be authorized for each limited-entry lobster zone. Of the seven lobster zones, six zones have adopted regulations to limit the number of new zone entrants.

In accordance with 12 MRSA §6448 sub-§7-A, The number of new zone entrants authorized in a licensing year must be in accordance with the exit ratio established under subsection 2 for that zone. The commissioner may adopt rules consistent with subsection 2, paragraph B to implement this subsection.

- A. Dividing the number of traps tags that may be issued to new zone entrants by the zone trap limit under section 6431-A. (Zones D, E, F, & G use this method)
- B. Applying the exit ratio to the number of individuals who declared that zone as their declared lobster zone in the year prior to the previous calendar year, but did not declare that zone as their declared lobster zone in the previous calendar year. (Zones A & B use this method)

Exceptions to the limited-entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are excluded from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited-entry law.

Each lobster limited-entry zone has established an exit ratio to determine how many tags or individuals must be retired (not renewed) in order for a new zone entrant to be allowed into the zone. Following are the number of licenses awarded in 2014 for each limited-entry zone based on the exit ratio for that zone:

**Zone A:** 10 licenses awarded; based on a 1:3 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 3 licenses retired)  
**Zone B:** 2 license awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 5 licenses retired)  
**Zone D:** 3 license awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags retired)  
**Zone E:** 1 license awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 3,000 tags retired)  
**Zone F:** 2 license awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags retired)  
**Zone G:** 1 licenses awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags retired)

Certified letters have been sent to those individuals on the waiting list that are now authorized to purchase a 2014 license. These individuals have 30 days to buy their 2014 Lobster and Crab Harvesting License for that limited-entry zone or the next person on the waiting list is offered the slot.

Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to Jessica McKay, Department of Marine Resources, (207) 624-6553.